

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000172/26
to the Commission
Hilde Vautmans (Renew), Wouter Beke (PPE), Benoit Cassart (Renew)
(15 January 2026)**

Subject: Consequences of the ban on spirotetramat for cabbage and sprout cultivation

According to growers' organisations in Flanders and Europe, the recent ban on the use of spirotetramat as a plant protection product has significant economic and cultivation-related consequences. Growers are facing increasing pressure owing to a rise in the number of sucking pests, greater losses in terms of quality and increased risks to the continuity of strategic vegetable crops, such as sprouts and other cabbage crops. The lack of viable alternatives is putting pressure on food security, the competitiveness of the sector and the achievement of sustainability objectives.

Furthermore, the use of spirotetramat is in line with the principles of integrated pest management (IPM) and the product remains authorised outside the European Union, for example in England and the US.

1. How does the Commission assess the reported consequences of the ban on spirotetramat in terms of yield losses, rejected produce owing to poor quality and the market position of the European vegetable sector, in particular with regard to the cultivation of cabbage and sprouts?
2. Is the Commission prepared to look into whether a (temporary) authorisation or derogation is possible as long as no equivalent, integrated and resistance-limiting alternatives are available?
3. What steps is the Commission taking to speed up the authorisation and recognition of new, safe and effective active substances, while maintaining high health and environmental standards, so that growers who adhere to IPM continue to have workable solutions at their disposal?

Submitted: 15.1.2026

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(23 March 2026)**

The Commission would like to note that the approval of spirotetramat expired on 30 April 2024 because no producer applied for the renewal of its approval.

While the Commission acknowledges this situation, it cannot enter in the merit of the decisions made by applicants regarding their choice to pursue or forego renewal of active substance approvals.

In accordance with Article 53(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 ⁽¹⁾, Member States may grant for a period not exceeding 120 days, so-called emergency authorisations for the placing on the market and controlled use for up to 120 days of plant protection products containing active substances that are not approved, where such a measure appears necessary because of a danger which cannot be contained by any other reasonable means.

The responsibility for granting emergency authorisations lies with the Member States, so that they can take into account specific agricultural and environmental conditions such as specific challenges posed by pests in crops like cabbage and Brussels sprouts.

To increase the availability of safe and more sustainable new active substances, the Commission proposed to the Parliament and the Council in the recently adopted Food and Feed Safety Simplification Package ⁽²⁾ a number of measures to accelerate market access for new biocontrol active substances and products containing them, which are key for the implementation of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), as well as a number of other measures to reduce administrative burdens on Member States and economic operators, in order to increase the toolbox for farmers to protect their crops with particular consideration of situations where substances are considered essential for combatting dangers to plants and plant production.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market and repealing Council Directives 79/117/EEC and 91/414/EEC, OJ L 309, 24.11.2009, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2009/1107/oj>.

⁽²⁾ https://food.ec.europa.eu/horizontal-topics/simplification-legislation_en.